World Bank assistance to drought hit States

2661. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the States which received World Bank assistance during the recent drought; and

(b) the extent to which these States received assistance from World Bank to tackle drought in the respective States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE SHRI S. B. P. B. K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) and (b) This Ministry is not aware of any assistance given by the World Bank to the drought affected States.

Increasing unemployment in agriculture sector

2662. SHRI H.K. JAVARE GOWDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether unemployment is increasing in agriculture sector;

(b) if so, what action have been taken by Government for providing adequate opportunity for employment and in what manner such employment will be provided; and

(c) whether the increasing unemployment in agriculture sector will be absolved in employment opportunities in services sector, without 100 per cent literacy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) As per information provided by the Planning Commission, the percentage distribution of usually working persons in agriculture sector has declined from 74.0 in 1972-73 to 64.8 in 1993-94.

(b) and (c) Several programmes are already being implemented by the Government to create employment opportunities in the rural areas. These include Swaran Jayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana, Jawahar Gram Samridhi Yojana, the Employment Assurance Scheme etc. However, the Government have recently finalised the National

Agriculture Policy which seeks to actualize the vast untapped growth potential of Indian agriculture, strengthen rural infrastructure to support faster agriculture development, promote value addition, accelerate the growth of agro-business and thus create employment opportunities in rural areas.

Loss of life and property in Maharashtra

2663. SHRI SURYABHAN PATIL VAHADANE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total loss of life and property due to floods, heavy rains in Maharashtra recently;

(b) what assistance or relief have been provided by Government in each district of such calamity; and

(c) what steps Government have taken, propose to take to minimise such losses in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARYANA RAO): (a) to (c) The responsibility for distribution of relief assistance and undertaking relief measures at the ground level, in the wake of natural calamities, is that of the State Government. No report regarding loss of life and damage to property in Maharashtra in the wake of heavy rains and floods has been received from the State Government.

Horticultural Technology Mission for North-East States

2664. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for opening a Horticultural Technology Mission for North-East States;

(b) if so, when it will start to function; and

(c) state the main objectives and functions of the Mission?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO):